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an art of plant therapy, if this is ever to be possible or worth the establishment.

The Flora of Tennessee.¹—No living botanist is as familiar with the interesting plants of Tennessee as the venerable Dr. Gattinger, who, like the late Dr. Mohr of Alabama, has spent many years in field study and now brings together the results of his work. Tennessee is a state of diversified topography, and the systematic list is preceded by a discussion of the factors which influence plant distribution. Like Dr. Mohr, Dr. Gattinger adapts himself to the Neoamerican practices in nomenclature and to the phylogenetic classification of the Germans, though not without a word of protest. Whether or not he be followed in his philosophic ideas, they contain the kernel of much that is good.

The Grasses of Iowa.²—In the prefatory note to this book Professor Calvin, the state geologist, tells us that the law creating the Iowa Geological Survey provides for the publication of bulletins on subjects of economic interest relating to the natural history of the state, and this consideration of one of the most important economic groups of plants forms the first of such bulletins. The topics treated are: the general structure and physiological characters of Gramineæ; purity and vitality of grass seed; cereals; fungus and bacterial diseases of grasses; the pastures and meadows of Iowa; weeds of meadows and pastures; chemistry of foods, and feeding; and lawns and lawn-making in the state. Professors Pammel and Weems are well equipped by training and opportunity for the consideration of these topics, and it is understood that the systematic discussion of the group, for which Professor Lamson-Scribner will be largely responsible, is to constitute a second volume complementary to the one now used.

Chlorophyll.³—No. 10 of the biologic series of *Scientia* presents in a manner not too technical for the layman the main facts concerning the chlorophyll function in plants as carried on under various external conditions. The structure, as well as the function, undergoes adaptive modifications in response to these conditions, and the

¹ Gattinger, Augustine. *The Flora of Tennessee, and a Philosophy of Botany*. Nashville, 1901.

² Pammel, L. H., Weems, J. B., and Lamson-Scribner, F. *The Grasses of Iowa*. Des Moines, 1901. 525 pp., 220 ff.

³ Griffon, Ed. *L'assimilation chlorophyllienne et la structure des plantes*, *Scientia*, Biologie, No. 10. Georges Carré et C. Naud, Éditeurs. Paris.

author here traces these effects of the environment. Means of measuring photosynthetic activity described in the first chapter are applied to the study of this form of activity in saprophytes and parasites and to the effect of light, temperature, moisture, and mineral salts on this function in green plants having a normal nutrition. R. H. T.

Our Forests. — Popular interest in the preservation of forests is too often a matter of extremes, so diverse reasons as pure emotion or simple business considerations leading to the wish for their protection, while private greed is ever encroaching on them in the most ruthless fashion. A most attractive presentation of the subject from the æsthetic standpoint is made in a little book by G. F. Schwarz.¹ A pleasingly written commentary on a few selected trees representative of our deciduous and coniferous woods is followed by chapters on forest adornment, the distribution of American forests, the characters of the broad-leaf and coniferous forests, and the artificial forests of Europe. Throughout, the book is well illustrated by process cuts. It is neither botany nor forestry, but a delightful presentation of the beauties of nature as exemplified in forests, equally correct in treatment when viewed from either of these special points of view, and calculated to draw increased attention to the desirability of holding as tenaciously as possible to what is still left of this most charming phase of nature. T.

The Annals of the Calcutta Garden.² — Like its predecessors, this volume is not only well brought out, but of permanent value, and the authors, Messrs. King, Duthie, and Prain, are to be congratulated on it. The plates are lithographed, and an excellent photogravure representing *Albizzia Richardiana* serves as frontispiece. T.

Notes. — In the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for December Miss Eastwood describes several new *Delphiniums* from California.

A paper on seed coats of certain species of *Brassica*, including good anatomical figures, by A. J. Pieters and V. K. Charles, is published as *Bulletin 29 of the Division of Botany of the United States Department of Agriculture*.

¹ Schwarz, G. F. *Forest Trees and Forest Scenery*. New York, The Grafton Press, 1901. xiv + 183 pp.

² *Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta*. Vol. ix, pt. i, A Second Century of New and Rare Indian Plants. Calcutta, The Bengal Secretarial Press, 1901. 82 pp., 94 pls. £1 13s.